FINNISH CHRISTMAS SONGS

ei - tä
(B♭m) F
f
ol - la kel - lä, tal·
maj Em A7 Dm Gm C
- käys h
kaik - ki hei - t
B♭(B♭m) F
B♭ (Dm)
u jo kut - suu mei - tä taa - sen
B♭(B♭m) F
f C G7 A
mä voisko nyt ol - la kel - lä, tal - ven sääs - ta
Gm C7 F B♭maj Em A7 Dm Gm C7 F B♭
hen - käys he' rin - nan jäi - tä
') C7(susC7) F

Finnish

CHRISTMAS SONGS

with

The Star Boys
A Traditional Christmas Entertainment

Translated
by
J.J.Mary Hatakka

The Finnish Church Guild

Acknowledgements

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Look at pages 18+19

Contents

The Finnish Christmas And Its Songs 4

Hoseanna 5

Christmas Bells 6

Cast Aside All Care And Sorrow 8

I Do Not Seek For Glory 10

Christmas In The North 12

The Snowdrifts Rising Against The Sky 14

The Lakes Are Frozen 16

And Can This Now Be Summer 18

Now Our Christmas Tree Is Ready 19

Welcome Santa 20

Lights Out! 22

Mum's Little Piggies 24

Index Of The First Lines 25

Translator's Note On The Star Boys 28

The Star Boys 29

The Finnish Christmas And Its Songs

The purpose of this collection is to make the riches of Finnish Christmas songs available to a wider audience and especially to the families and friends of expatriate Finns. It includes most of the best-loved traditional songs, although, of course, in Finland itself these now exist amid a wide range of international Christmas music - everything from *Adeste Fidelis* and *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht* to *Jingle Bells* and *White Christmas.*

As elsewhere, the songs fall easily into two groups: the devotional, reminding us of the first Christmas and the spiritual significance of it all, and the secular, evoking the lively world of Santa Claus and his red-hatted attendants, the world of feasting and merry-making.

The traditional Christmas season begins with Advent Sunday with the singing of *Hoseanna* and, of course, reaches its climax on Christmas Eve when the Gospel is read in the family circle and a Christmas Peace, declared from the ancient religious capital of Turku, is in force over the whole country. But throughout Advent are also the little occasions of jollity - the pikkujoulut - in the offices, the schools and the homes of Finland leading up to the feasting of Christmas Eve itself with its ham, its apples and its *riisipuuro* (rice pudding !).

As in other countries, the Finnish songs of Christmas are rich in tradition - the tradition of the country and the tradition of the family. In the Sibelius household at Ainola, for example, the composer himself usually played for the Christmas singing but it was his wife Aino who always accompanied the carol *I Do Not Seek For Glory (Giv mig ej glans, ej guld, ej prakt,* in Finnish *En etsi valtaa loistoa)* - perhaps the best-loved of all the Finnish Christmas songs.

Many of the earlier compilers of the songs were, like Sibelius, Swedish-speakers and leading figures in Finnish cultural life in the 19th century. They include Zacharias Topelius, poet, novelist and professor of history who wrote his *Christmas In The North (Sylvias julvisa,* in Finnish *Sylvian joululaulu)* far away from Finland, in Italy, where he had gone to avoid the cholera and the Crimean War and Karl Collan, the well-known folk-lorist, and university librarian, who composed the music for the same song.

On the other hand, many other songs were written in Finnish, particularly those composed after the upsurge of Finnish nationalism that led to independence from Russia in 1917. *Cast Aside All Care And Sorrow (Arkihuolesi kaikki heitä)* composed in 1919 by Leevi Madetoja or *The Lakes Are Frozen (Kun maas on hanki)* by Otto Kotilainen, who incidentally were both pupils of Sibelius, have remained particularly popular from the songs of that period. The author of both of these songs, Alpo Noponen, worked as head of a publishing house while that of the other famous Christmas song, *The Snowdrifts Rising Against The Sky (On hanget korkeat nietokset)*, Vilkku Joukahainen, became a member of parliament and later a Minister for Social Affairs.

Yet, interspersed with these purposefully created Christmas songs are some folk songs telling in simple terms about the many facets of Christmas tide in Finland. *Now Our Christmas Tree Is Ready (Joulupuu on rakennettu)*, for example, manages in a remarkable way to fuse the devotional and merry into one whereas *And Can This Now Be Summer (No onkos tullut kesä)* strikes a highly original comic note.

But the songs are not simply meant for singing. *Lights Out ! (Soihdut sammuu)* involves the children and the whole family in a lively ritual of arm-stretching and elbow-bending, while *Welcome, Santa (Joulupukki joulupukki)* belongs to the ceremony of Santa Claus's arrival after 6 o'clock on Christmas Eve asking "Are there any good children here ?", though in this modern collection a red coat and reindeer have replaced the traditional heavy sheep skin coat and cap. The collection ends with the traditional performance, the *Star Boys (Tiernapojat)* with its mixture of song and drama, one of the most distinctive contributions of the Nordic lands to the culture of Christmas.

M.B. & J.J.M.H.

Hoseanna, Son Of David

G.J. Vogler (1749-1814)
Arr. by Eeva Kökkö

Maestoso

Ho - se - an - na, Son of Da - vid, Be Thy name for aye a - dored; Ho - se-

an - na, Son of Da - vid The___ prom - ised___ Son of God.___

Ho - se - an - na, Ho - se - an - na, Ho - se - an - na, Ho - se-

an - na! Ho - se - an - na, Son of Da - vid, The___ prom - ised___ Son of God.___

Hoosianna

Hoosianna Davidin poika,
kiitetty olkoon hän!
Kiitetty Davidin poika,
kuin tulee Herran nimeen!

Hosianna

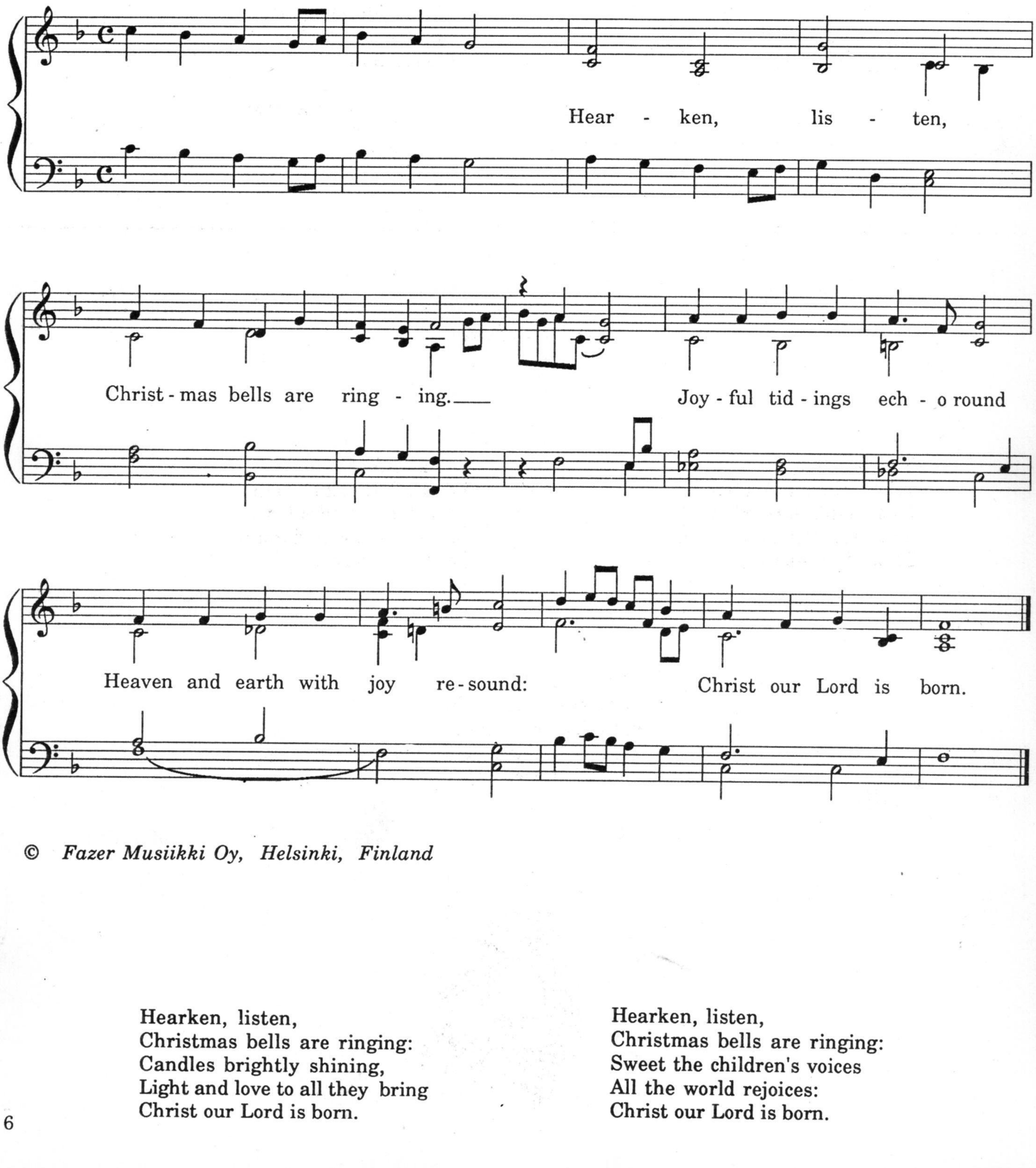
Hosianna, Davids Son!
Välsignad vare han,
välsignad Davids Son,
som kommer i Herrens namn!

Christmas Bells

Armas Maasalo (1885-1960)

Tempo giusto

Arr. by Olli Heikkilä


Hear - ken, lis - ten,
Christ - mas bells are ring - ing.
Joy - ful tid - ings ech - o round
Heaven and earth with joy re - sound:
Christ our Lord is born.

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Hearken, listen,
Christmas bells are ringing:
Candles brightly shining,
Light and love to all they bring
Christ our Lord is born.

Hearken, listen,
Christmas bells are ringing:
Sweet the children's voices
All the world rejoices:
Christ our Lord is born.

Joulun kellot

Hiljaa, hiljaa,
joulun kellot kajahtaa.
Kautta avaruuksien
kaikuu laulu riemuinen:
Jeesus tullut on!

Hiljaa, hiljaa,
joulun kellot kajahtaa.
Kirkkaat joulun kynttilät
lempeästi hymyyvät:
Jeesus tullut on!

Hiljaa, hiljaa
joulun kellot kajahtaa.
Taivahalla säteillen
välkkyy sarja tähtösten
Jeesus tullut on!

Hiljaa, hiljaa,
joulun kellot kajahtaa.
Kaikuu laulu lapsosten
kirkkahasti helkkyen:
Jeesus tullut on!

Helmi Auvinen

Juleklockor

Stilla, stilla
juleklockan tonar hän.
Genom himlarymden då
sång och änglaton oss nå.
Jesus kommen är!

Stilla, stilla
juleklockan tonar hän.
Uppå fästet tindra klart
tusen stjärnor underbart.
Jesus kommen är!

Stilla, stilla
juleklockan tonar hän,
och i kyrkan juleljus
oss nu kalla till Guds hus.
Jesus kommen är!

Cast Aside All Care And Sorrow

Leevi Madetoja (1887-1947)
Arr. by Einar Englund

Cast a - side all care and sor - row, Let your_ heart be_ young a - gain;_

Now the tid - ings of ev - ery Christ - mas Live a - gain in the hearts of men._

In the fro - zen, bleak mid - win - ter, com - fort, warmth and_ love we find,

And the glow of_ ev - ery Christ - mas Lights the_ hearts of_ all man - kind.

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Arkihuolesi kaikki heitä

Arkihuolesi kaikki heitä,
mieles nuorena nousta suo!
Armas joulu jo kutsuu meitä
taasen muistojen suurten luo.
Kylmä voisko nyt olla kellä,
talven säästä kun tuoksahtaa
lämmin leuto ja henkäys hellä
rinnan jäitä mi liuottaa.

Syttyi siunattu joulutähti
yöhön maailman raskaaseen,
hohde määrätön siitä lähti,
viel' on auvona ihmisten;
Kun se loistavi lasten teille,
päilyy järvet ja kukkii haat,
kuusen kirkkahan luona heille
siintää onnelan kaukomaat.

Alpo Noponen

Vardagssorgerna glöm dem alla

Vardagssorgerna, glöm dem alla,
låt ditt sinne bli ungt på nytt!
Julens klockor oss åter kalla,
än har icke dess frid oss flytt!
Kan väl längre ditt hjärta frysa,
kan det gömma sin vinters is,
när den ljuvliga jul ses lysa,
full av kärlek och lov och pris?

Julens stjärna å himlen tänder
ren sitt bloss uti jordens natt,
hoppets ljus hon kring världen sänder
bringar mänskorna kärleks skatt;
där hon strålar på barnens vägar,
skimrar allt i dess klara brand,
blomma hagar och grönska tegar,
skymtar vägen till lyckans land.

Transl. by Nino Runeberg

I Do Not Seek For Glory

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)
Arr. by Olli Heikkilä

Lento

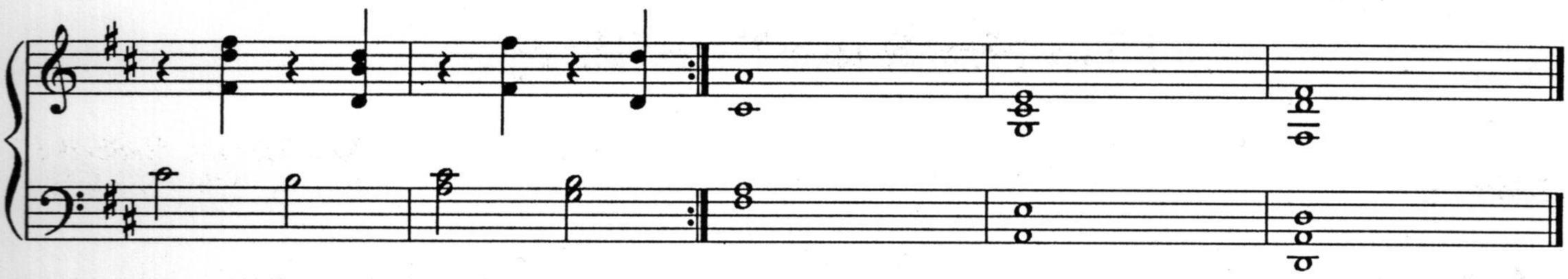
I do not seek for

glo - ry, I do not_ seek for wealth, I ask the_ light of

Heav - en And peace o'er all the earth. When Christ - mas comes, our_

God is nigh, His joy will_ lift our hearts on high; Not glo - ry or the

rich man's wealth But peace o'er_ all_ the earth.



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To all mankind both high and low,
Come, holy Christmastide!
And let the light of Heaven
Shine through this world so wide.
Descend to us, our Lord Divine,
Give us Thy joy at Christmas time;
To all mankind both high and low,
Come, holy Christmastide!

En etsi valtaa, loistoa

En etsi valtaa loistoa,
en kaipaa kultaakaan,
ma pyydän taivaan valoa
ja rauhaa päälle maan.
Se joulu suo, mi onnen tuo
ja mielet nostaa Luojan luo,
ei valtaa eikä kultaakaan,
vaan rauhaa päälle maan.

Suo mulle maja rauhaisa
ja lasten joulupuu,
Jumalan sanan valoa,
joss' sieluin kirkastuu.
Tuo kotihin, jos pieneenkin,
nyt joulujuhla suloisin,
Jumalan sanan valoa
ja mieltä jaloa.

Luo köyhän niinkuin rikkahan
saa joulu ihana!
Pimeytehen maailman
tuo taivaan valoa!
Sua halajan, sua odotan,
sa Herra maan ja taivahan,
nyt köyhän niin kuin rikkaan luo
suloinen joulus tuo!

Giv mig ej glans, ej guld, ej prakt

Giv mig ej glans, ej guld, ej prakt
i signad juletid.
Giv mig Guds ära, änglavakt,
och över jorden frid.
Giv mig en fest, som gläder mest,
den, konung jag har bett till gäst!
Giv mig ej glans, ej guld, ej prakt,
giv mig en änglavakt.

Giv mig ett hem på fosterjord,
en gran med barn i ring,
en kväll i ljus med Herrens ord
och mörker däromkring!
Giv mig ett bo med samvetsro,
med glad förtröstan, hopp och tro!
Giv mig ett hem på fosterjord
och ljus av Herrens ord!

Till hög, till låg, till rik, till arm
kom, helga julefrid!
Kom barnaglad, kom hjärtevarm
i världen vintertid!
Du ende, som ej skiftar om,
min Herre och min Konung, kom!
Till hög, till låg, till rik, till arm
kom glad och hjärtevarm!

Z. Topelius

Christmas In The North

Karl Collan (1828-1871)
Arr. by Eeva Kökkö

Allegretto

It's Christ - mas a - gain in the lands of the North, In the

Emin Dmin

lands of the long win - ter night; Where cand - les are burn - ing on

Gmaj Amin Bmaj Bmaj Emin

each Christ - mas tree And mem - o - ries of Christ - mas are bright. The

Amin Gmaj Amin Dmaj Gmaj

white si - lent snows and the sen - ti - nel trees, The clear fro - zen skies. How I

miss all of these; And far, far a - way Christ - mas tid - ings re - call, O

Sylvian joululaulu

Ja niin joulu joutui jo taas Pohjolaan:
joulu joutui jo rintoihinkin.
Ja kuuset ne kirkkaasti luo loistoaan
jo pirtteihin pienoisihin.
Mut ylhäällä orressa vielä on vain
se häkki mi sulkee mun sirkuttajain,
ja vaiennut vaikerrus on vankilan;
oi murheita muistaa ken vois laulajan.

Miss' sypressit tuoksuu nyt talvellakin
istun oksalla uljaimman puun,
miss' siintääpi veet, viini on vaahtovin
ja sää aina kuin toukokuun.
Ja Etnanpa kaukaa mä kauniina nään,
ah' tää kaikki hurmaa ja huumaapi pään,
ja laulelmat lempeesti lehdoissa soi,
sen runsaammat riemut ken kertoilla voi!

Sä tähdistä kirkkain, nyt loisteesi luo
sinne Suomeeni kaukaisehen!
Ja sitten kun sammuu sun tuikkeesi tuo,
sa siunaa se maa muistojen!
Sen vertaista toista en mistään ma saa,
on armain ja kallein mull' ain Suomenmaa!
Ja kiitosta sen laulu soi Sylvian
ja soi aina lauluista sointuisimman.

Transl. by Martti Korpilahti

Sylvias julvisa

Och nu är det jul i min älskade Nord;
är det jul i vart hjärta också?
Och ljusen de brinna på rågade bord,
och barnen i väntan stå.
Där borta i taket där hänger han än,
den bur, som har fångat min trognaste vän,
och sången har tystnat i fängelseborg;
o, vem har ett hjärta för sångarens sorg?

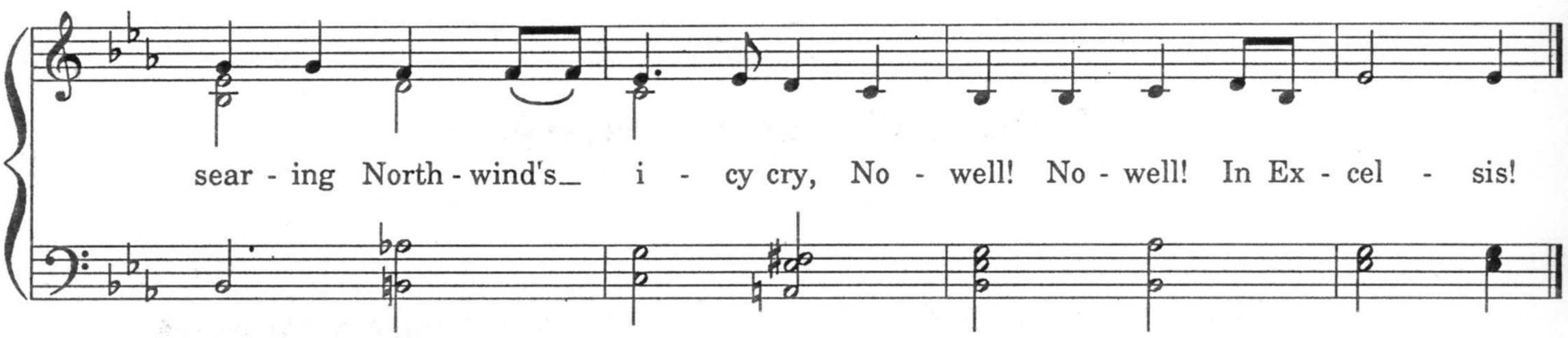
Jag bor i de eviga vårarnas land,
där de glödande druvorna gro.
Cypresserna dofta vid havets strand,
där har jag mitt ensliga bo.
Det flammande Etna, det gnistrar så skönt,
och luften är vårlig och gräset är grönt,
Orangernas ånga ur skogarna går,
och ljuv mandolinen om kärlek slår.

Och stråla, du klaraste stjärna i skyn,
blicka ned på min älskade Nord!
Och när du går bort under himmelens bryn,
välsigna min fädernejord!
I blommande vårar på gyllene strand,
var finnes ett land som mitt fädernesland?
För dig vill jag sjunga om kärlek och vår,
så länge din Sylvias hjärta slår.

Z. Topelius

The Snowdrifts Rising Against The Sky

Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)
Arr. by Olli Heikkilä



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O, little friends, lift your hearts in song,
Nowell! Nowell! In Excelsis!
The friend awaited the whole year long
Has come again to join our throng.
Nowell! Nowell! In Excelsis!

O Lord, Thy mercy now give to all,
Nowell! Nowell! In Excelsis!
Protect us with Thy holy might,
And lead us to Thy heavenly light;
Nowell! Nowell! In Excelsis!

On hanget korkeat , nietokset

On hanget korkeat, nietokset
vaan joulu, joulu on meillä!
On kylmät paukkuvat pakkaset
ja tuimat Pohjolan tuuloset,
vaan joulu, joulu on meillä.

Oi käykää ystävät laulamaan,
kun joulu, joulu on meillä!
Se tuttu ystävä vanhastaan,
on tänne poikennut matkoiltaan
ja viipyy hetkisen meillä.

Me taasen laulamme riemuiten,
kun joulu, joulu on meillä!
Se valtaa sielun ja sydämen
ja surun särkevi entisen,
mi kasvoi elämän teillä!

Nyt tähtitarhoihin laulu soi,
kun joulu, joulu on meillä!
Nyt maasta taivaaseen päästä voi,
jos sydän nöyrä on lapsen, oi,
kun joulu, joulu on meillä!

Oi anna, Jumala armoas
kun joulu, joulu on meillä!
Ja kansaa suojaa sun voimallas,
meit' auta näkemään taivaitas,
kun joulu, joulu on meillä!

Vilkku Joukahainen

Visst drivor höga som skyn vi ha

Visst drivor höga som skyn vi ha,
men julen, julen är inne!
Visst smäller kölden i knutarna
vid friska nordliga vindarna,
men julen, julen är inne!

O sjungen, sjungen, små vänner, då,
att julen, julen är inne.
Den vännen, kärast för barnen små,
vill åter gästa vår kulna vrå
med månget leende minne.

Och åter sjunga ví glatt som förr
att julen, julen är inne,
den klappar mild på vårt hjärtas dörr,
förjagar sorgen, som bott där förr, -
och ljust blir åter vårt sinne.

Så klinge sången i himmelshöjd,
ty julen, julen är inne.
För jorden öppnar sig himlens fröjd,
när barnasjälen, i ringhet böjd,
mot himlen lyfter sitt sinne.

O Herre, sänk över oss din nåd,
när jul nu åter är inne!
Ditt folk du lede uti ditt råd,
att stöd och bistånd i råd och dåd
hos dig beständigt det finne!

Transl. by L. Saxén

The Lakes Are Frozen

Otto Kotilainen (1868-1936)
Arr. by Eeva Kökkö

Moderato

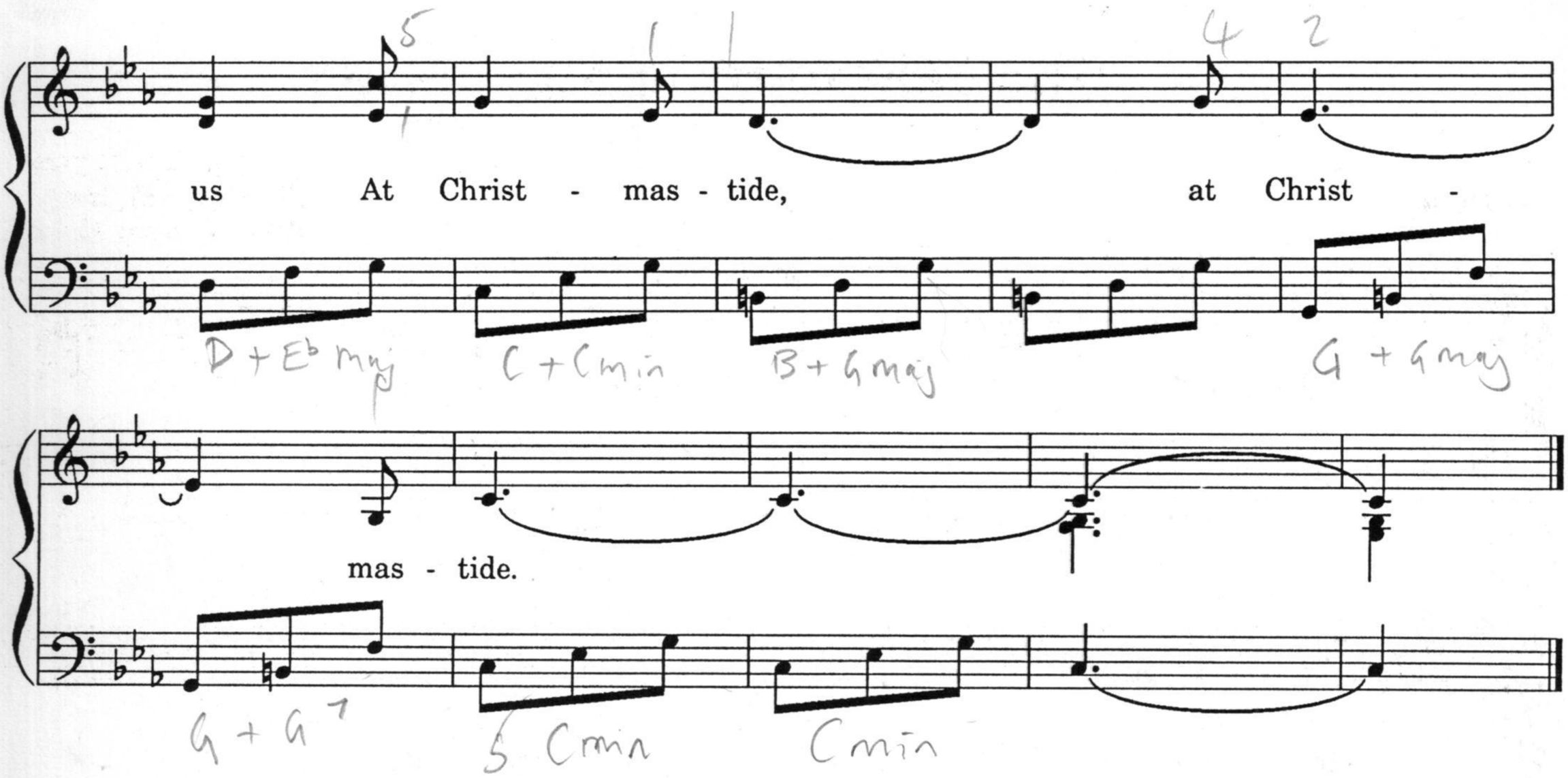
The lakes are fro - zen the land is snow - bound, The

sun has hid - den its gold - en ring;

The sum - mer swal - lows have fled the North

lands The for - ests si - lent where no birds sing;

But win - ter light - ens and warmth sur - rounds



The joy of Christmas has banished sorrow,
And bitter winter is held at bay,
The merry voices of little children
Ring out the tidings of Christmas Day;
And gleaming candles deck every fir tree,
At Christmastide, at Christmastide.

Kun joulu on

Kun maass' on hanki ja järvet jäässä
ja silmä sammunut auringon,
kun pääsky pitkän on matkan päässä
ja metsä autio, lauluton,
käy lämmin henkäys talvisäässä,
kun joulu on, kun joulu on.

Ei huolta, murhetta kenkään muista,
ei tunnu pakkaset tuikeat,
vain laulu kaikuvi lasten suista
ja silmät riemusta hehkuvat,
ja liekit loistavat joulupuista,
kun joulu on, kun joulu on.

On äiti laittanut kystä kyllä,
hän lahjat antaa ja lahjat saa,
vaan seimi, pahnat ja tähti yllä
ne silmiin kalleina kangastaa;
siks' mieli hellä on kristityllä,
kun joulu on, kun joulu on!

Alpo Noponen

När jul är när

När drivan täcker båd' sjö och stränder
och solens öga ej mera ler,
när svalan flyktat till fjärran länder
och fågelsången ej klingar mer;
en andesusning går genom världen:
"Nu jul är när, nu jul är när!"

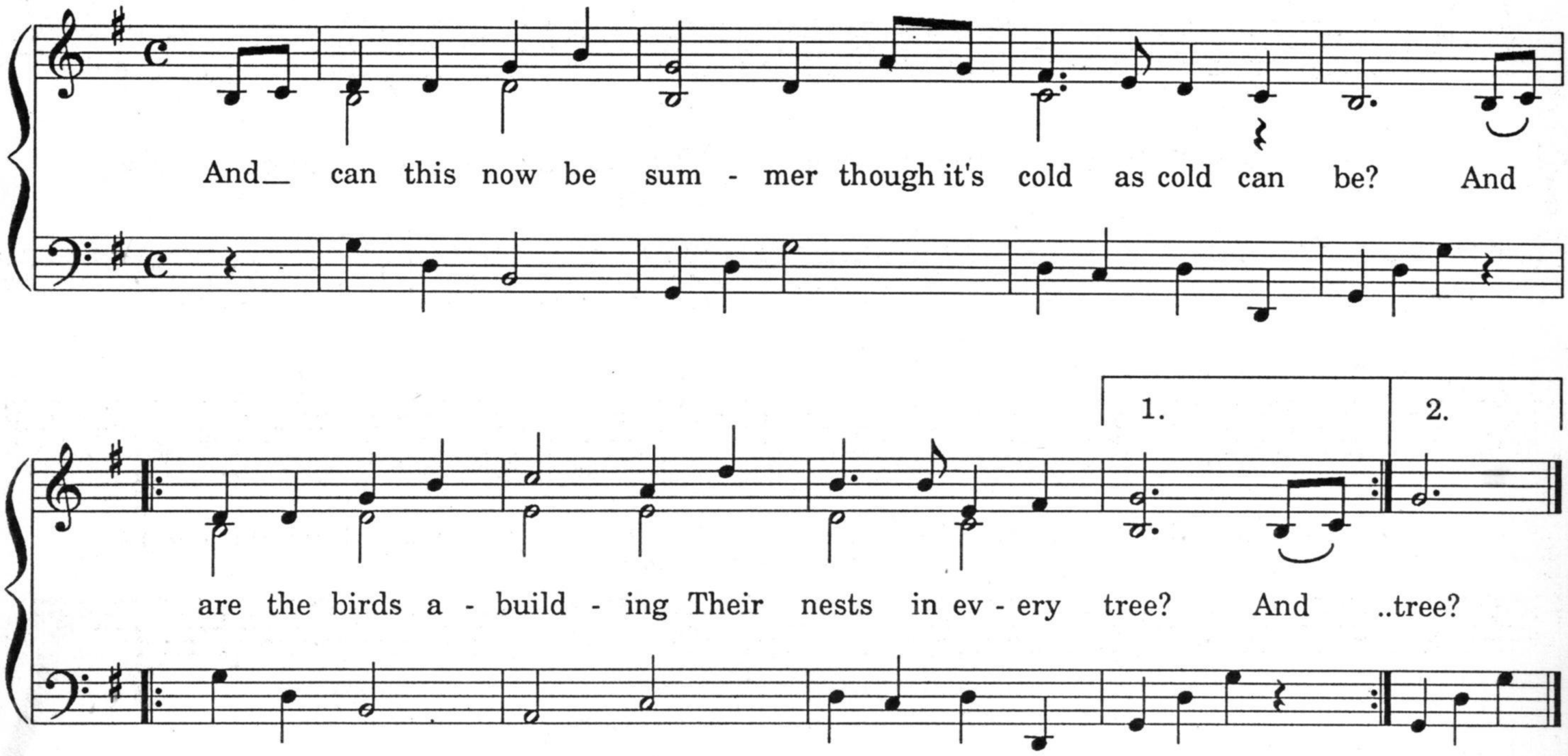
Ej köld och mörker dess röst förkunnar,
ej stormars dån uti höstlig natt, -
men sång och jubel ur barnamunnar,
och klara ögon och glada skratt,
och ljus som brinna på granens grenar,
när jul är när, när jul är när!

Nu hemmet pyntas för högtidsstunden,
vi gåvor skänka och gåvor få;
men krubbans gäst uti middagsblunden
vårt sinne tjusar mer skönt ändå.
Den kristne glädes i hjärtegrunden,
att jul är när, att jul är när!

Transl. by L. Saxén

And Can This Now Be Summer?

Finnish folk song
Arr. by Eeva Kökkö



The candles on the fir tree
Are bursting into bloom,
A novel lighting system
To pierce the winter gloom.

And old folks over sixty
Are frisking round and how!
And aching joints and stiffness
Are all forgotten now.

And everyone feels happy,
Goodwill abounds all day,
If only all that's Christmas
Would never go away!

No onkos tullut kesä

No onkos tullut kesä
nyt talven keskelle,
ja laitetaankos pesä
myös pikkulinnuillen?

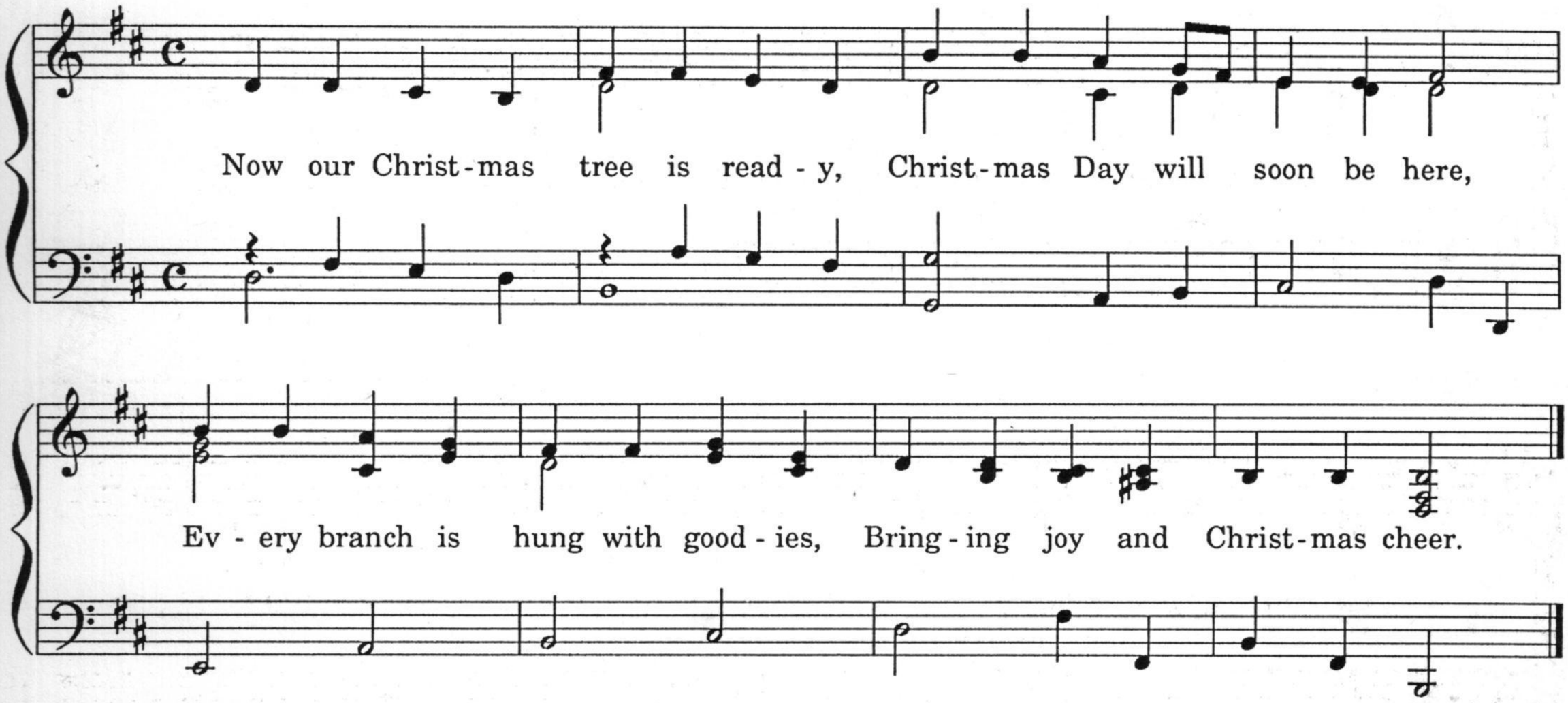
Jo kuusi kynttilöitä
on käynyt kukkimaan
pimeitä talven öitä
näin ehkä valaistaan.

Ja vanhakin nyt nuortuu
kuin lapsi leikkimään,
ja koukkuselkä suortuu
niin kaikk' on mielissään.

Ja hyvä lämmin hellä
on mieli jokaisen,
oi jospa ihmisellä
ois joulu ainainen.

Now Our Christmas Tree Is Ready

Finnish folk song
Arr. by Eeva Kökkö


Now our Christ-mas tree is read-y, Christ-mas Day will soon be here,
Ev-ery branch is hung with good-ies, Bring-ing joy and Christ-mas cheer.

All the candles brightly shining
Sparkle with our Christmas glee,
Round the tree the children singing
Carols echo merrily.

Thank you, Jesus our Redeemer,
You came down from Heaven above;
The best gift of every Christmas
Is the blessing of your love.

Joulupuu on rakennettu

Joulupuu on rakennettu,
joulu on jo ovella.
Namusia ripustettu
ompi kuusen oksilla.

Kuusen pienet kynttiläiset
valaisevat kauniisti,
ympärillä lapsukaiset
laulelevat sulosti.

Kiitos sulle Jeesuksemme,
kallis Vapahtajamme.
Kun sä tulit vieraaksemme
paras joululahjamme.

Welcome Santa!

P.J. Hannikainen (1854-1924)
Arr. by Eeva Kökkö

Children:

Wel - come San - ta, Mer - ry Christ - mas! Nice to see your

snow - y whis - kers, Set your sack down, it's too heav - y,

come right in, we're more than read - y. We re-mem - ber

you came last year With your red coat and your rein - deer;

All a-round you glad to meet you, Such good child - ren wait to greet you.

Santa Claus:

Merry Christmas ! Thank you kindly,
Such good children all around me;
Little singers, glad to meet you,
Little players, let me greet you.
I would stay and join your revel,
But I still have far to travel,
Other children still are yearning,
Other candles brightly burning.

Joulupukki, joulupukki

Joulupukki, joulupukki,
valkoparta vanha ukki.
Eikö taakka paina selkää?
Käypä tänne en mä pelkää:
Oothan meille vanha tuttu,
puuhkalakki, karvanuttu.
Tääll' on myöskin kiltit lapset,
kirkassilmät, silkohapset.

Lapset:
Joulupukki, joulupukki,
valkoparta, vanha ukki,
vietä iltaa joukossamme,
täällä meidän riemunamme.
Tervetullut meille aina,
käypä tänne, puuta paina,
tai jos leikkiin tahdot tulla,
kahta hauskempaa on sulla.

Joulupukki:
Kiitos, kiitos, kiltit lapset,
kirkassilmät, silkohapset.
Terve teille, pienokaiset
leikkiväiset, laulavaiset.
Hauska tääll' ois iltahetki,
vaan on eessä pitkä retki:
Kuusen luota kuusen luokse
multa matkan suunta juoksee.

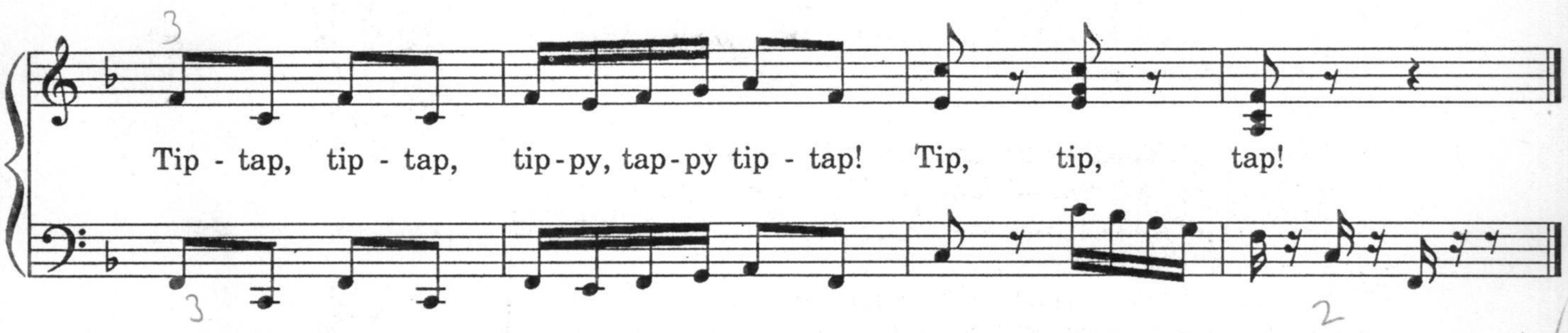
Lapset:
Joulupukki, joulupukki,
valkoparta, vanha ukki.
Viivy vielä pieni hetki,
vaikka onkin pitkä retki.
Tässä tuomme sulle mettä
vilpoisaa kuin lähdevettä,
sitten jaksat pitkän tiesi
kulkea kuin aimo miesi.

Joulupukki:
Kiitos vaan, nyt kiltit lapset
kirkassilmät, silkohapset.
Täss' on teille muistiaiset,
pienet joulumaistiaiset!
Lapset:
Kiitos sulle, oiva ukki,
ystävämme joulupukki.
Taas kun päästään ensi jouluun,
tervetullut meidän kouluun.

P.J. Hannikainen

Lights Out !

Wilhelm Sefwe
Arr. by Eeva Kökkö



'Lights Out! Lights Out!' can be sung with mime actions throughout, but this is optional. With the chorus, action is obligatory: everyone stretches their arms sideways, with bent elbows and fore- fingers pointing upward, and you then move alternate arms up and down. (J.J.M.H.)

Tiptoe, tiptoe, out they come a-creeping, come a-creeping.
Night-elves red-elves, now that all are sleeping, all are sleeping.
Tip-tap, tip-tap, ...

On the table, what a feast for eating, feast for eating,
Elvish eyes are round the corner peeping, corner peeping.

On the table little elves are tripping, elves are tripping,
Soon they scoff the ham and broth and dripping, broth and dripping.

Goodies there are wonderful and many, wonderful and many;
Someone whispers: "Haven't you got any ? Haven't you got any?"

Round the fir tree now they're gaily leaping, gaily leaping,
Till the sunrise o'er the sill is peeping, sill is peeping.

Tiptoe, tiptoe, off they go a-creeping, go a-creeping;
To their elf caves where they'll soon be sleeping, soon be sleeping.

Tonttujen jouluyö

Soihdut sammuu, kaikki väki nukkuu, väki nukkuu,
öitten varjoon talon touhu hukkuu, touhu hukkuu.
Tiptap, tiptap, tipe, tipe, tiptap, tip, tip, tap.

Tonttujoukko silloin varpahillaan, varpahillaan,
varovasti hiipii alta sillan, alta sillan.
Tiptap, tiptap, ...

Jouluruokaa tarjoo kunnon väki, kunnon väki,
raoistansa sen jo tonttu näki, tonttu näki.

Pöydän päälle veitikkaiset rientää, veitikkaiset,
syövät paistia ja juovat lientä, juovat lientä.

Herkkua on siinä monenlaista, monenlaista,
kuiske kuuluu: "Miltä ruoka maistaa, ruoka maistaa?"

Sitten leikitellään kuusen alla, kuusen alla,
kunnes päivä koittaa taivahalla, taivahalla.

Hiljaa hiipii joukko varpahillaan, varpahillaan,
kotikoloihinsa alle sillan, alle sillan.

Tomtarnas julnatt

Midnatt råder, det är tyst i husen, tyst i husen.
Alla sova, släckta äro ljusen, äro ljusen.
Tipp tapp, tipp tapp, tippe, tippe tipp, tapp, tipp, tipp, tapp.

Se då krypa tomtar upp ur vrårna, upp ur vrårna,
lyssna, speja, trippa fram på tårna, fram på tårna.
Tipp tapp, tipp tapp, ...

Snälla folket låtit maten rara, maten rara,
stå på bordet åt en tomteskara, tomteskara.

Hur de mysa, hoppa upp bland faten, upp bland faten,
tissla, tassla: "God är julematen, julematen!"

Gröt och skinka, lilla äppelbiten, äppelbiten,
tänk, så rart det smakar Nisse liten, Nisse liten.

Nu till lekar! Glada skrattet klingar, skrattet klingar,
runt om granen skaran muntert svingar, muntert svingar.

Natten lider. Snart de tomtar snälla, tomtar snälla,
kvickt och näpet allt i ordning ställa, olrdning ställa.

Sedan åter in i tysta vrårna, tysta vrårna,
tomteskaran tassar nätt på tårna, nätt på tårna.

Transl. by Alfred Smedberg

Mum's Little Piggies

Arr. by Eeva Kökkö

Mum's lit - tle pig - gies all to-geth - er, All to-geth - er, all to-geth - er
Mum's lit - tle pig - gies all to-geth - er, All to-geth - er, the lot.
That's you, and me, too That's you, and me, too.

Porsaita äidin oomme kaikki

Porsaita äidin oomme kaikki,
oomme kaikki, oomme kaikki.
Porsaita äidin oomme kaikki,
oomme kaikki, kaikki.
Sinä ja minä,
sinä ja minä.

Morsgrisar är vi allihopa

Morsgrisar är vi allihopa,
allihopa, allihopa.
Morsgrisar är vi allihopa,
allihopa, du me',
ja'me', å du me',
ja'me', å du me'.

Index Of First Lines

Arkihuolesi kaikki heitä 8
En etsi valtaa loistoa 10
Hiljaa, hiljaa joulun kellot kajahtaa 6
Hoosianna Daavidin poika 5
Ja niin joulu joutui jo taas Pohjolaan 12
Joulupukki, joulupukki 20
Joulupuu on rakennettu 19
Kun maas on hanki ja järvet jäässä 16
No onkos tullut kesä 18
On hanget korkeat, nietokset 14
Porsaita äidin oomme kaikki 24
Soihdut sammuu 22

Give mig ej glans, ej guld, ej prakt 10
Hosianna Davids Son 5
Midnatt råder, det är tyst i husen 22
Morsgrisar är vi allihopa 24
När drivan täcker båd' sjö och stränder 16
Och nu är det jul i min älskade Nord 12
Stilla, stilla, juleklockan tonar hän 6
Vardagssorgerna glöm dem alla 8
Visst drivor höga som skyn vi ha 14

And can this now be summer 18
Cast aside all care and sorrow 8
Hearken, listen, Christmas bells are ringing 6
Hoseanna, son of David 5
I do not seek for glory 10
It's Christmas again in the lands of the North 12
Lights out! Lights out! 22
Mum's little piggies 24
Now our Christmas tree is ready 19
The lakes are frozen 16
The snowdrifts rising against the sky 14
Welcome Santa! Merry Christmas! 20

THE STAR BOYS

A traditional Finnish Christmas Entertainment

THE PLAYERS

King Herod

The King of the Moors

The Knight

The Star Boy

Translator's Note On The Star Boys

The Christmas entertainment of *Tiernapojat / The Star Boys* derives immediately from the Swedish 'Stjärngossar' which, in turn, goes back to a 15th/16th century German tradition and, ultimately, to the *officium stellae* of the early Church. These older sources also supply the related Danish star-bearer tradition of 'De hellige tre konger.'

The typical folk tradition route from Europe to Finland is via Sweden, and this seems to have been the case with the Star Boys. In the 19th century the custom gradually spread inland from the Swedish-speaking areas of Finland. Swedish 'stjärngossar' devolves into Finnish versions, 'seerna'- , 'serna'-, 'tierna'- 'pojat', and also into the standard Finnish for 'star', 'tähti' — 'tähtipojat'. But the winning title is *Tiernapojat.*

The first Star Boy known by name is one of Finland's major national poets, Johan Ludvig Runeberg (1804-77); he was a small Star Boy when he was about six years old. Zacharias Topelius (1818-98), another great Swedish-speaking Finn, laments in his diary entry for December 31, 1837 that he has not seen the Star Boys for nine or ten years, and he goes on to deplore the lack of interest in folk heritage in general. But a year later on the eve of Twelfth Night he records: "The Star Boys were here. Most entertaining."

In many instances the Finnish-speaking population would have become familiar with this traditional entertainment primarily at a visual level. A commentary from 1910 remarks on the incomprehensibility of the singing, "It was in Swedish".

The Star Boys is performed by four singers: Herod, the King of the Moors, the Knight and the Star Boy. Traditionally, they are young boys; they wear long white shirts with belts and shoulder straps; three of them have swords and the fourth carries a large paper star lit from within by a candle or a flashlight.

The headgear seems to have changed during the 20th century. Sweden's Carl Larsson has a painting from the turn of the century, 'Stjärngossarna', with five boys, three of them wearing high conical paper hats topped by paper pompoms, and Herod with a dentulated paper crown. In Finland nowadays only the Star Boy wears the high conical hat, but often he wears a flat monkish cap. Now both Kings wear differentiated crowns, and the Knight wears a helmet. The star that the Star Boy spins during the performance tends to be of the pointed variety though earlier stars could be drum-shaped with a star painted on. The overall style of the performance is declamatory, with stiff ritualistic movements.

The first full Finnish text that we have of the Star Boys,'Tähtipoikain laulu', dates from 1910, and it is virtually a translation of the Swedish one. It also shows only minimal differences from modern performances. The only major change is the little song in praise of Tsar Alexander, the Grand Duke of Finland, which is often omitted nowadays. In his essay Kalevi Rousti points out, however, that this song was not an incidental addition but a traditional feature of other Star Boy entertainments. For example the king of Sweden figured in one version as follows:

Store Carl Johan's hand
Frälste Svea land
Ifrån fiendens grufveliga hot och band.

Rousti also suggests that such eulogies might well serve the purpose of mollifying officialdom, who were not at all well disposed to the tradition. In Denmark, Sweden and Finland the money-spinning plus hospitality side of this seasonal entertainment led to abuse. A Danish proclamation of 1861 promises summary arrest for "den industri, som de kalde 'at gå med stjerne' ...", and Finnish authorities in Hämeenlinna threatened fines for the "infamous old custom of young people ... going round with an illuminated paper star ... and abusing decent men and women." In *A Minister's Son / Papin poika* (1928) the Finnish novellist Ilmari Kianto gives a vivid description of a mix-up in the 1880s when two sets of Star Boys arrived at the same house within half an hour of each other and the wooden swords were put to good use in the ensuing scrimmage when "gold crowns wobbled and hit the snow."

The folk extension of the tradition might well have led to its suppression, but ultimately it is the schools and their pupils that have maintained the tradition, from the Latin schools of yesteryear to the comprehensive schools of today. In earlier records from the Finnish countryside, where the Star Boys are mentioned, they generally come from the nearest town.

The Star Boys who wandered from place to place in the Christmas season, in particular over Twelfth Night, depending on uncertain charity, have been replaced by pre-Christmas performances in the school hall, or, in some areas, you can order your *Tiernapojat* from one of the local schools. Free-wheeling groups are beginning to emerge, so we may even see a return to the old mediaeval round.

J.J.Mary Hatakka

Main sources: Rousti, Kalevi, Tiernapoikaperinteen kirjallisia lähteitä. Pohjois-Pohjanmaan maakuntaliiton vuosikirja XVII, Oulu 1959 and Vento, Urpo, Tiernapojat: keskiaikaisen loppiaisnäytelmän tie Suomeen. Kansanmusiikki 4, 1978

The Star Boys

A traditional Finnish Christmas Entertainment

The Players

King Herod

The King of the Moors

The Knight

The Star Boy

The Knight *asks at the door , or off stage:* May we come and sing to you ?

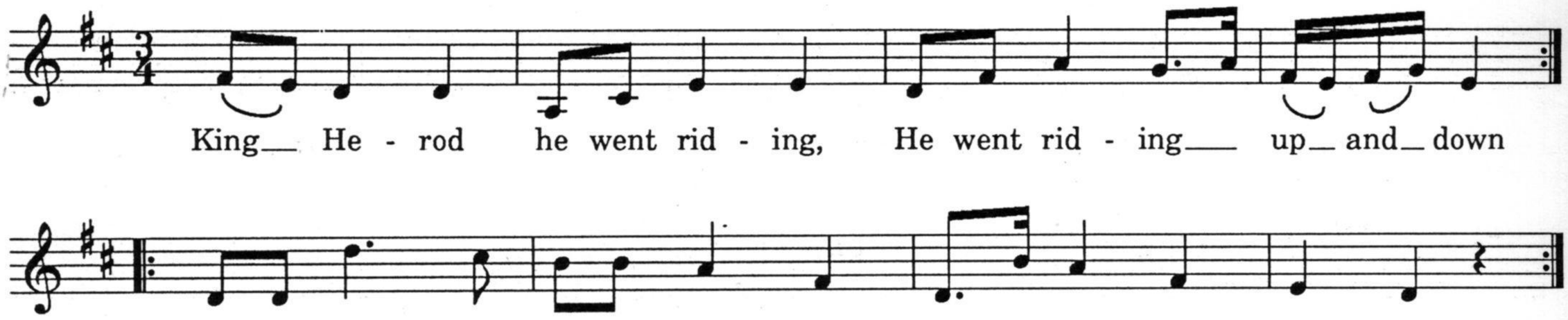
After an affirmative answer from the people of the house or the audience, all the players come in and stand in a straight row facing their audience. The Star Boy comes in first or, more often, last; King Herod is followed by the King of the Moors and the Knight.

All: (Song 1)

1. Good eve - ning, good eve - ning
To all who dwell here - in, be they high or low;
2. Mer - ry Christ - mas, Mer - ry Christ - mas,
And the bless - ing from the Heav - ens.
1. To each and all of you,
To our hosts, our thanks al - so.
2. We wish you one and all,
That on all men doth fall.

The Knight and the King of the Moors step forward, face each other, and form an arch with their swords. Herod also unsheathes his sword and paces slowly to and fro as he sings the following song. Each time he passes under the arch he swings up his sword to break the arch.

Herod: (Song 2)



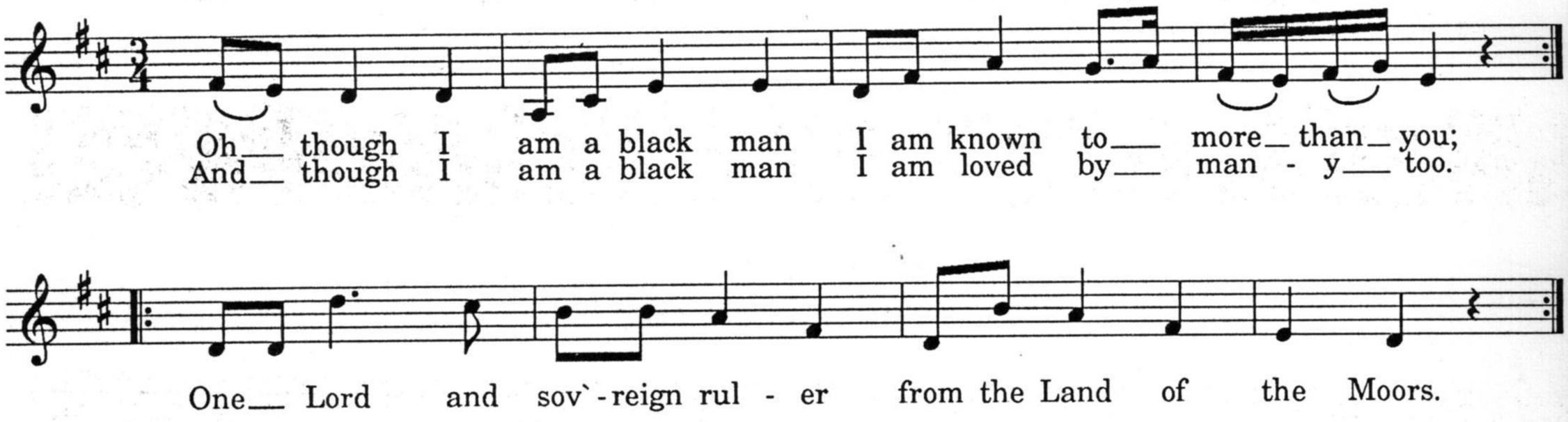
Herod: I am King Herod

Moor: Ha, I think you are a tyrant!

Herod: I am no tyrant. I am King Herod. I bear the crown of my ancestors. Aha! Why are you so black?

Now Herod and the Knight step forward and form an arch with their swords, and the King of the Moors paces slowly to and fro as he sings, breaking the arch with his sword as he passes under.

Moor: (Song 3)


Oh though I am a black man I am known to more than you;
And though I am a black man I am loved by man - y too.
One Lord and sov`-reign rul - er from the Land of the Moors.

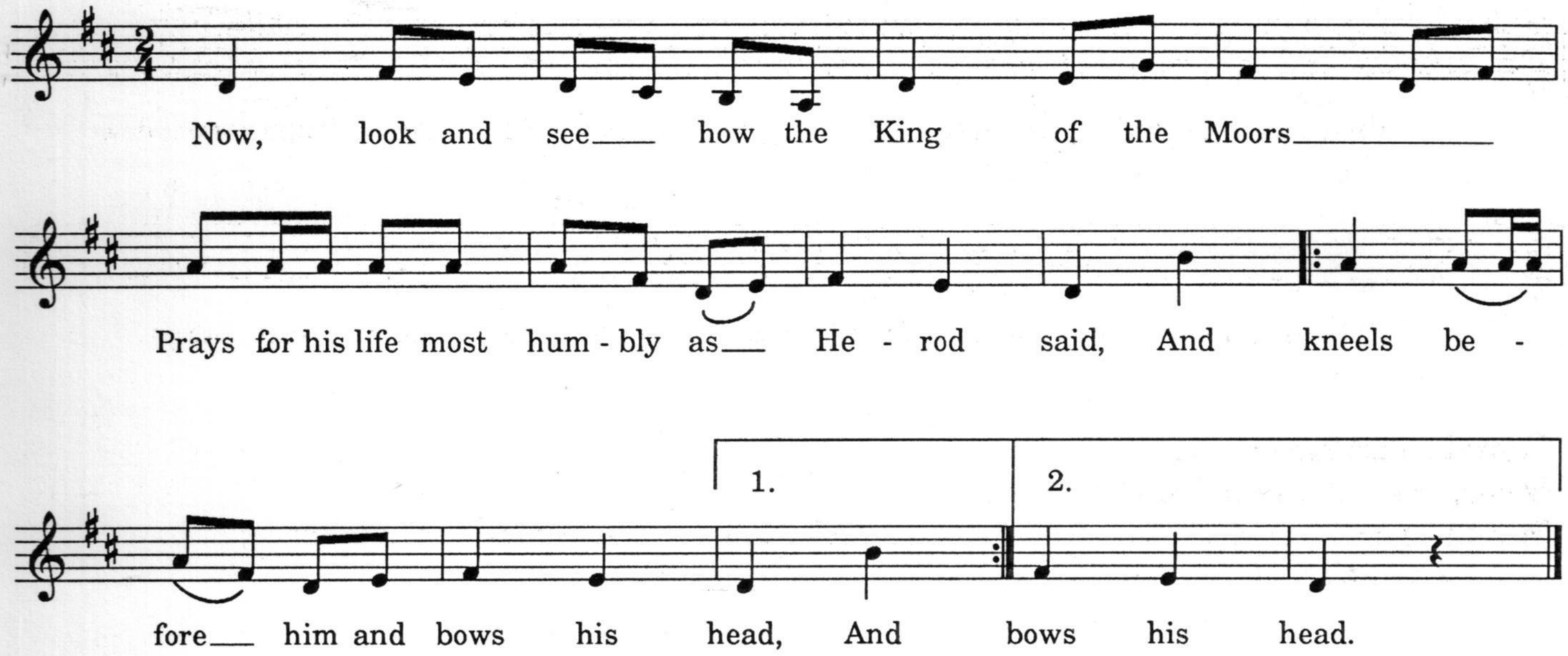
Herod: No matter how great a lord and ruler you are in the Land of the Moors, you must kneel before me and pray to me.

Moor: No! Let the Knight do it!

Herod: You or your life!

The King of the Moors kneels in front of Herod, and Herod places his sword on the Moor's shoulder.

All: (Song 4)

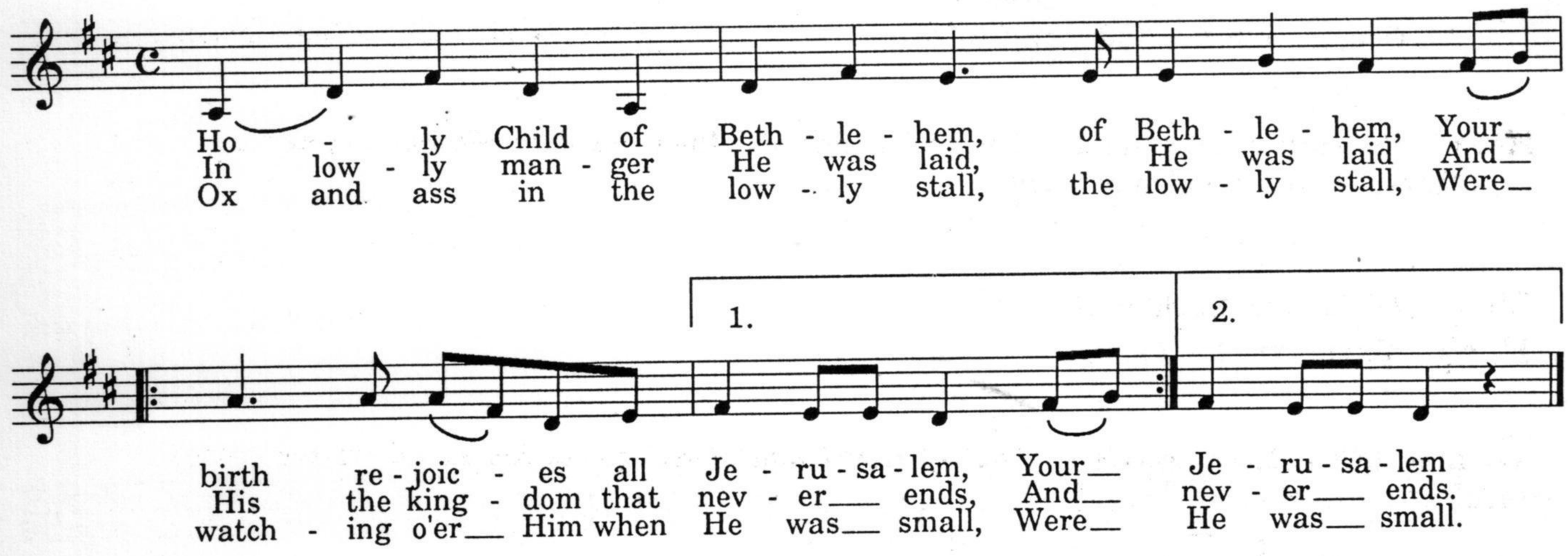

Now, look and see how the King of the Moors
Prays for his life most hum - bly as He - rod said, And kneels be -
1.
2.
fore him and bows his head, And bows his head.

The King of the Moors rises, and all the players stand in line.

All: *(Singing to the previous tune)*
Now you have seen the King of the Moors
Pray for his life most humbly as Herod said,
And kneel before him and bow his head.

Star Boy: Now go to Bethlehem, the City of David, in the land of Judah. There you will find a new-born babe wrapped in swaddling bands and lying in a manger. The angels of God and ox and ass keep watch over him.

All: (Song 5)

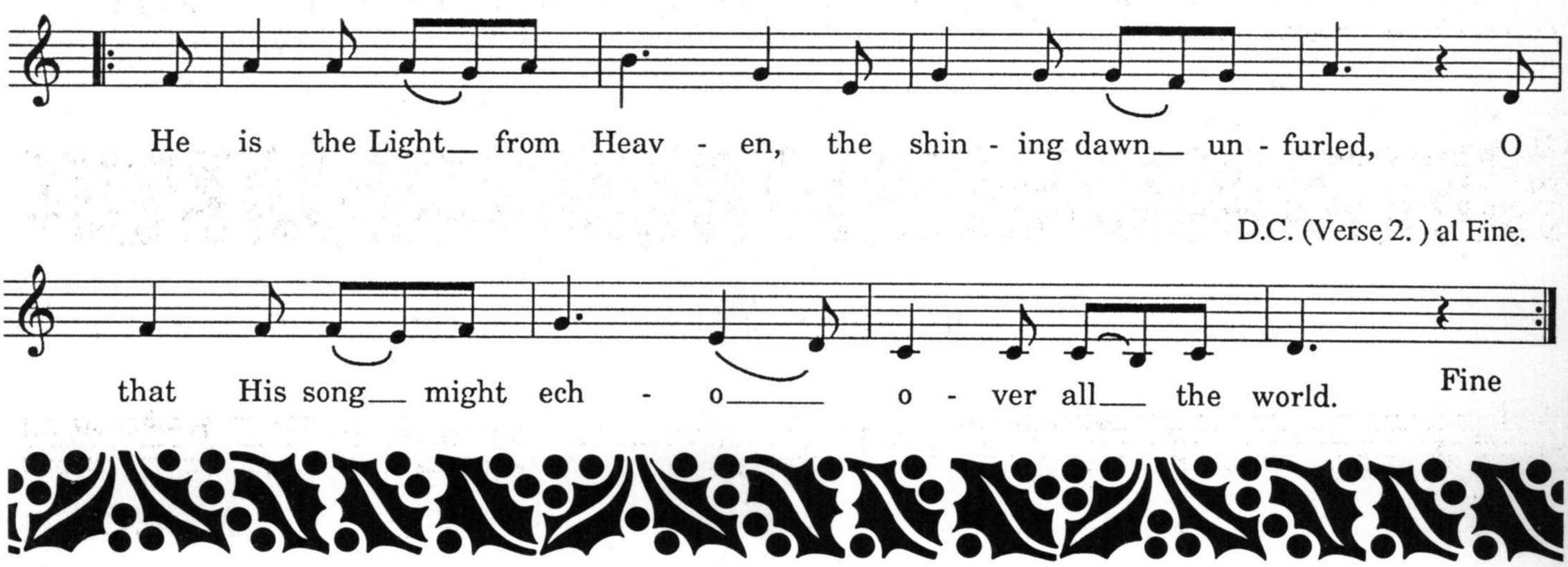

Ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, of Beth - le - hem, Your
In low - ly man - ger He was laid, He was laid And
Ox and ass in the low - ly stall, the low - ly stall, Were
1.
2.
birth re - joic - es all Je - ru - sa - lem, Your Je - ru - sa - lem
His the king - dom that nev - er ends, And nev - er ends.
watch - ing o'er Him when He was small, Were He was small.

All: (Song 6)

(Verse)

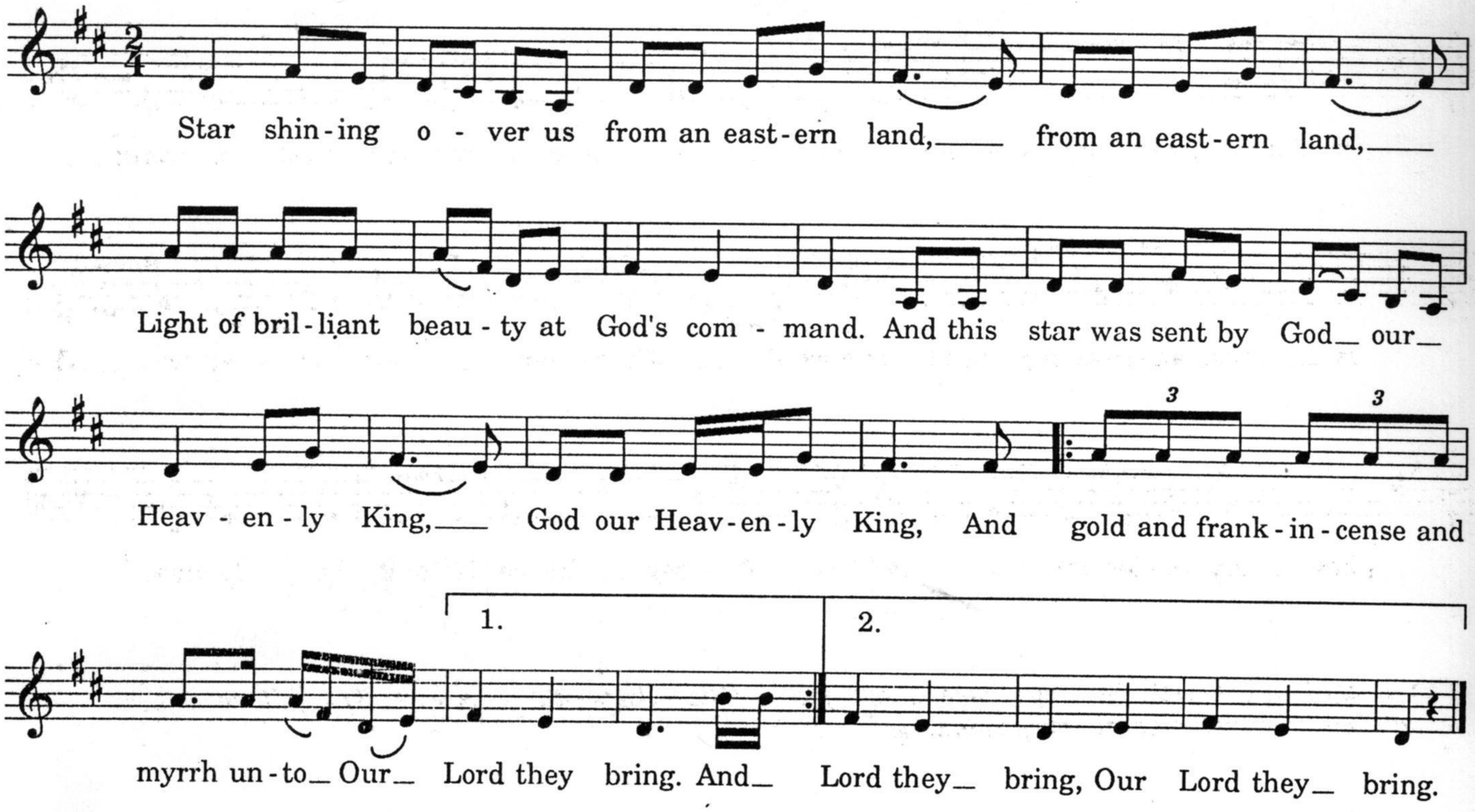
A child is born un - to us, a gra - cious son is giv - en,
In Him I find life's bless - ing, the glo - rious fa - vour of Heaven;
On earth the heav - en - ly cho - rus is echo - ed glad - ly and long,
The Ho - ly Child is our Sa - viour, let earth re - sound with his song.

(Chorus)



During the following song the Star Boy spins the star, or moves it from side to side.

All: (Song 7)


Star shin - ing o - ver us from an east - ern land, from an east - ern land,
Light of bril - liant beau - ty at God's com - mand. And this star was sent by God our
Heav - en - ly King, God our Heav - en - ly King, And gold and frank - in - cense and
1.
2.
myrrh un - to Our Lord they bring. And Lord they bring, Our Lord they bring.

Herod: Knight , my servant.

Knight: Yes, Your Gracious Majesty.

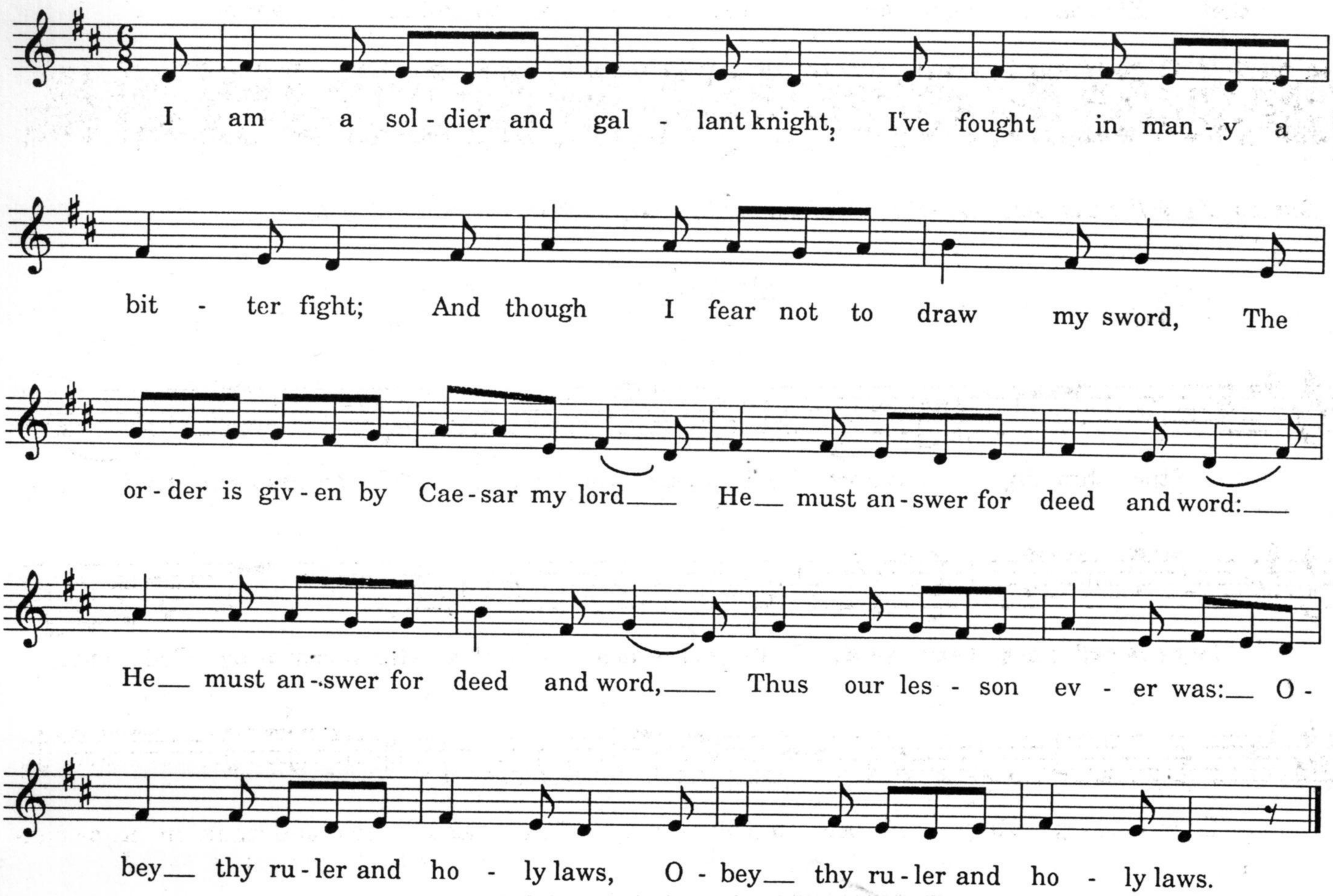
Herod: Have you seen those three wise men from the East?

Knight : Yes, I have seen the three wise men from the East who conducted themselves like cunning robbers and false rulers, and took another way and departed each to his own country.

Herod: This troubles me greatly and grieves my heart that those three wise men from the East took another way and departed like cunning robbers and false rulers to their own country. Go and saddle my white stallion that was with me in my wars against the Turks and the Tartars, for now I will fight against these three wise men from the East. Go also to Bethlehem, the City of David, in the land of Judah, and kill and cast into the river all male children of two years and younger until you have found this newborn King of the Jews.

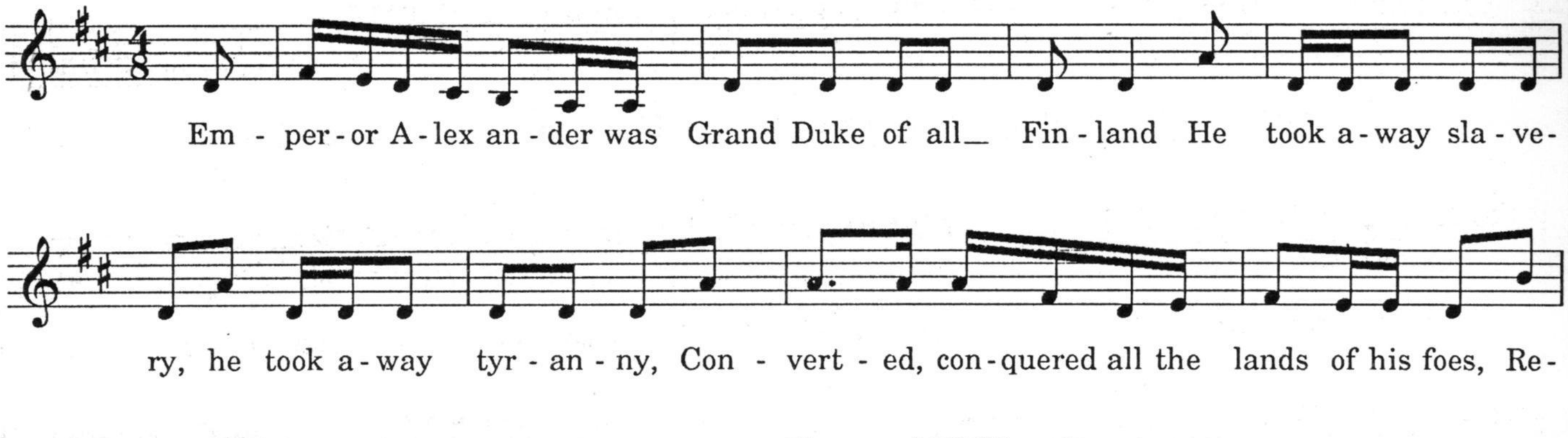
Herod and the King of the Moors step forward and form an arch with their swords. The Knight paces slowly to and fro, breaking the arch with his sword as he passes under.

Knight: (Song 8)

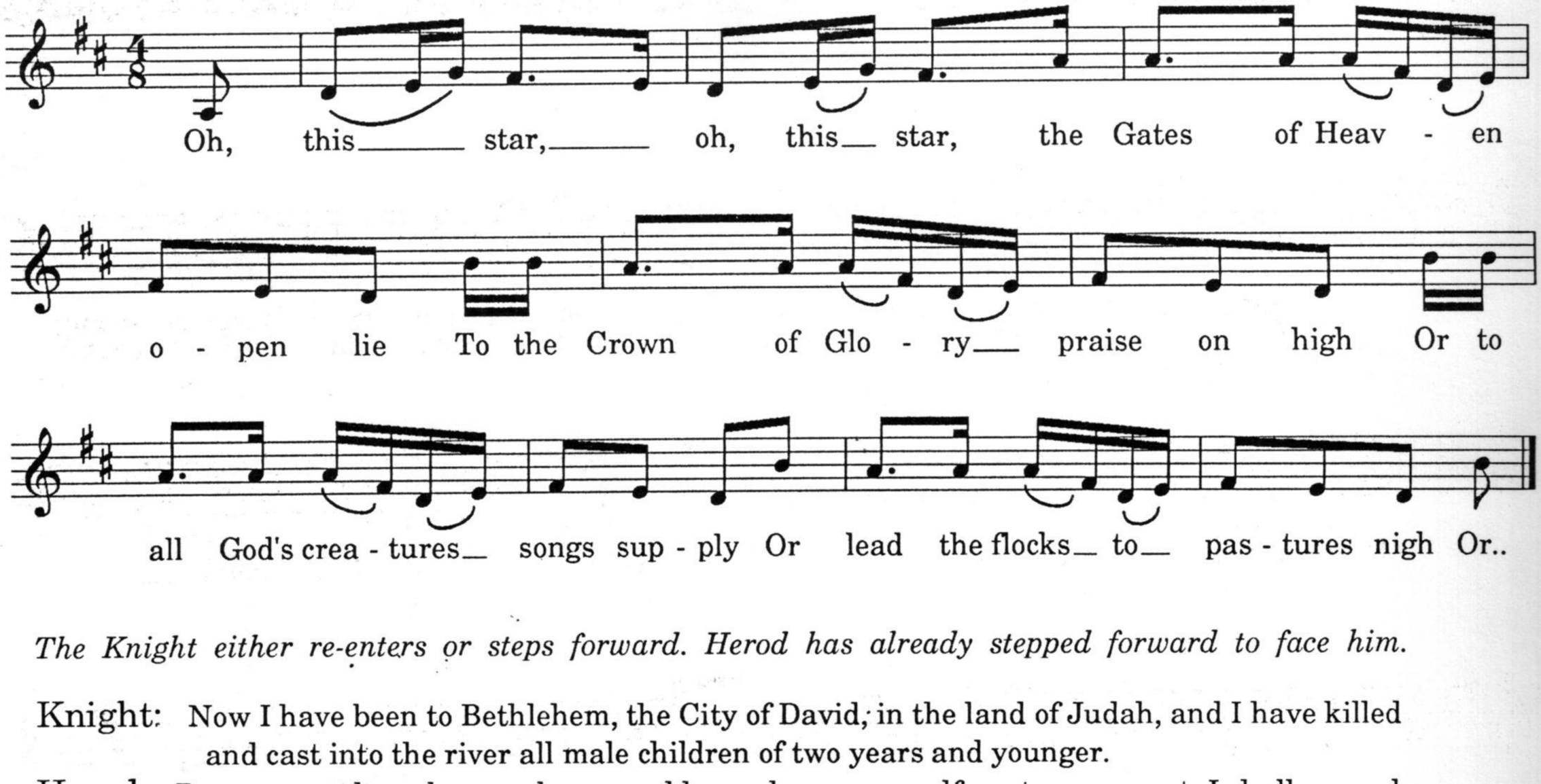

I am a sol - dier and gal - lant knight, I've fought in man - y a
bit - ter fight; And though I fear not to draw my sword, The
or - der is giv - en by Cae - sar my lord___ He___ must an - swer for deed and word:___
He___ must an - swer for deed and word,___ Thus our les - son ev - er was:___ O -
bey___ thy ru - ler and ho - ly laws, O - bey___ thy ru - ler and ho - ly laws.

The Knight either exits or steps back a few paces. The others stand in line. The following song is omitted in most modern performances.

All: (Song 9)


Em - per - or A - lex an - der was Grand Duke of all_ Fin - land He took a - way sla - ve-
ry, he took a - way tyr - an - ny, Con - vert - ed, con - quered all the lands of his foes, Re-
joice with us,_ O re - joice a - gain, That you are free_ from_ toil and pain.

All: (Song 10)


Oh, this_____ star,_____ oh, this_ star, the Gates of Heav - en
o - pen lie To the Crown of Glo - ry_ praise on high Or to
all God's crea - tures_ songs sup - ply Or lead the flocks_ to_ pas - tures nigh Or..

The Knight either re-enters or steps forward. Herod has already stepped forward to face him.

Knight: Now I have been to Bethlehem, the City of David, in the land of Judah, and I have killed and cast into the river all male children of two years and younger.

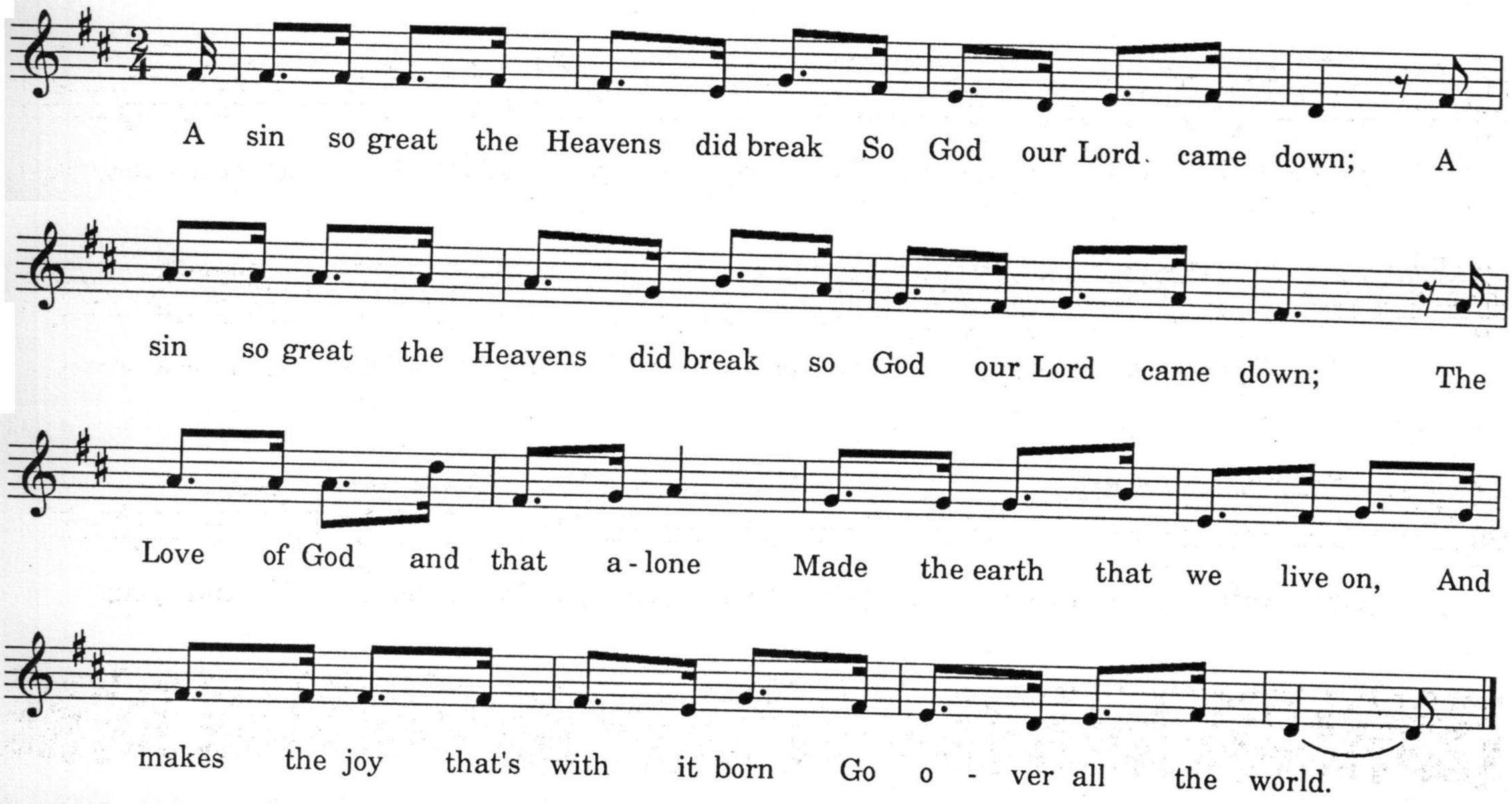
Herod: Because you have been so brave and have shown yourself my true servant, I shall reward you with gold and silver and give you a token in blood with my sword.

The Knight kneels. Herod either lays his sword on the Knight's shoulder, or traces the sign of the cross on the Knight's chest as he says:

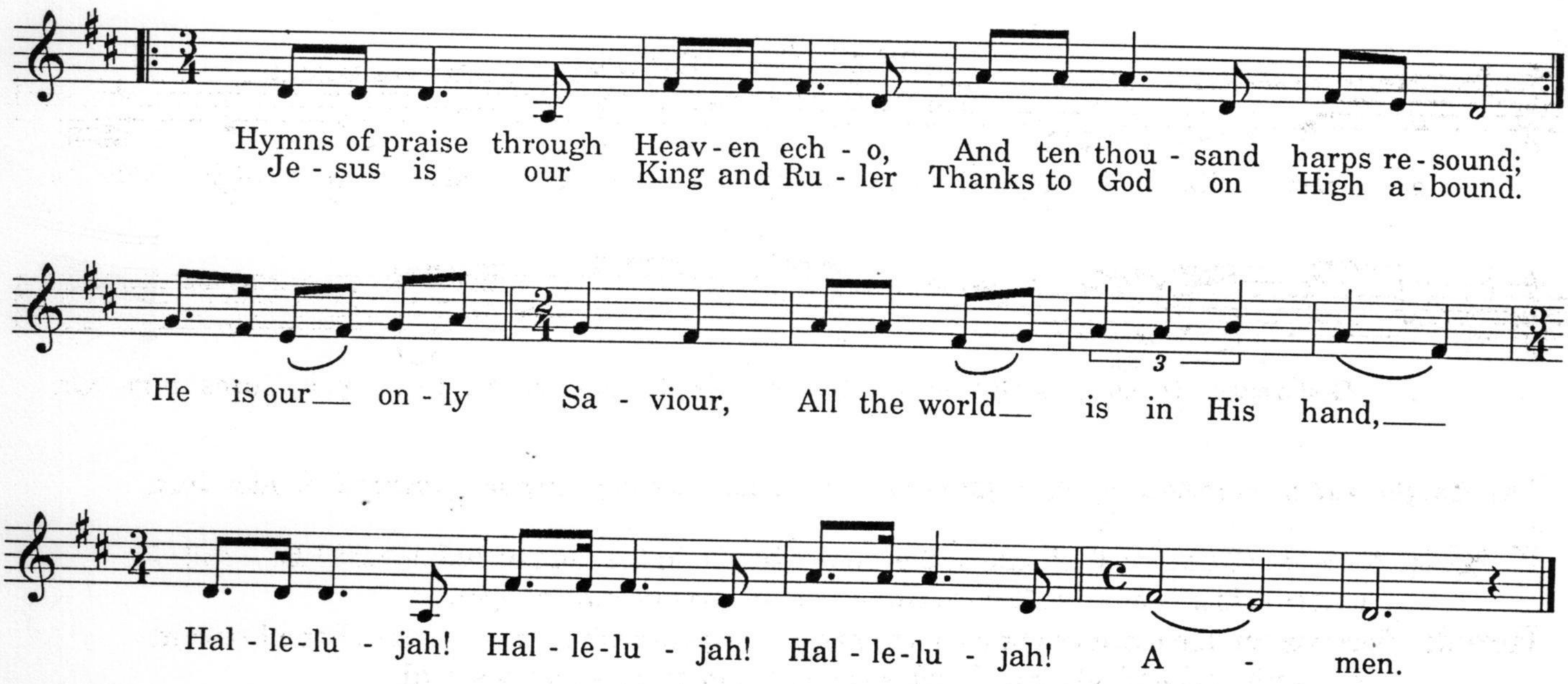
Herod: Out this way; in this,
My journey ends thus.
A cross on your breast,
My sword at rest.

Herod and the Knight sheathe their swords and step back into line.

All: (Song 11)


A sin so great the Heavens did break So God our Lord came down; A
sin so great the Heavens did break so God our Lord came down; The
Love of God and that a-lone Made the earth that we live on, And
makes the joy that's with it born Go o - ver all the world.

All: (Song 12)


Hymns of praise through Heav-en ech - o, And ten thou - sand harps re-sound;
Je - sus is our King and Ru - ler Thanks to God on High a-bound.
He is our on - ly Sa - viour, All the world is in His hand,
Hal - le-lu - jah! Hal - le-lu - jah! Hal - le-lu - jah! A - men.

Knight: We did not come here unbidden, nor did we come here on false pretences. You yourselves bade us welcome. We are poor boys, and we ask a few pennies.

Star Boy: And a candle for our star.

The Knight goes round collecting from the audience.

All: (Song 13)

1. Thanks___ be_____ to_____ you,_____ Thanks___ be to___ you
   God will bless the giv - ers_____ of these gifts to - day,

2. Mer - ry_____ Christ - mas!_____ Mer - ry Christ - mas!
   And_____ the_____ bless - ing_____ from the Heav - ens.

1. For the gifts you have giv - en to us here;
   And_____ this is the end - ing of our play.

2. We_____ wish you_____ one___ and___ all,
   That_____ on all_____ men___ doth___ fall.

They bow stiffly and solemnly, and leave.

Errata:

p. 20 last line: for 'see' read 'greet'
p. 31 Star Boy: for 'living' read 'lying'
p. 35 Song 11: two first lines of music should be reversed

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